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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/616,832

07/09/2003

Michael T. Carley

16497.1.1.4

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57360

7590

10/20/2006

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EXAMINER

SWIGER III, JAMES L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/616,832

Applicant(s)

CARLEY ET AL.

Examiner

James L. Swiger

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Continuation Sheet</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :7/9/2003;
6/24/2004; 2/23/2006; .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

The election restriction dated 6/30/2006 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (US Patent 6,152,937). Peterson et al. disclose a method of manufacture of a clip-like device comprising the steps of providing a sheet of metal (Col. 5, lines 30-35) that may be also nicken-titanium, the step of removing one or more portions from the steel to create loop-like elements (an at least partial U-shape would also be a loop), (Col. 5, lines 53-57), and a plurality of tines extending from the body (16), and also the step of where the 'tines' may be bent out of the plane (see at least Fig. 10). Peterson et al. also disclose the step of the device being mounted on the delivery apparatus Fig. 8, and see also Col. 7 lines 61-65, as well as the step of heat-treating the clip (Col. 6, lines 39-42), and also wherein the loop shaped elements may be compressed and/or reshaped (Col. 6, lines 45-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. '937 in view of Abrams et al. (US Patent 6,036,720). Peterson et al. disclose the claimed invention except for a therapeutic coating or a radiopaque coating on at least a portion of the clip. Abrams et al. disclose a radiopaque marker (Col. 7, lines 24-35) so that it may be visible during a fluoroscopy procedure, and also at least a therapeutic coating, such as a polymeric material (Col. 7, lines 30-35) that allow the device to be easier to work with and be more acceptable to the body. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Peterson et al. having at least a therapeutic coating or radioactive marker in view of Abrams et al. to better use and maneuver the device in use during surgery.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. '937 in view of Salahieh et al. (US Patent 5,769,870). Peterson et al. disclose the claimed invention except for the device having at least a coating of a hydrophilic polymer. Salahieh et al. teach the use of a hydrophilic polymer that can expand in the presence of an aqueous fluid. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the device of Peterson et al. having at least a hydrophilic polymer in view of Abrams et al. to better use the device during surgery to prevent leakage of fluid.

Conclusion

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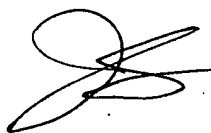
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See pto-892.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James L. Swiger whose telephone number is 571-272-5557. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JLS

 10/15/06


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER